

*Comments from Lem Stewart, CIO of the Commonwealth:*

Contrary to what is insinuated in this article, much of the PPEA process is open. VITA posted for public view the conceptual proposals to our Web site over a year ago, and they are still there.

In addition to what's available to the general public, there have been many PPEA presentations and briefings delivered every step of the way by VITA staff and me to employees, legislative committees, the IT Investment Board, the Council on Technology Services, and many other groups, such as technology councils and IT conferences. Those presentations are also posted on our Web site.

We have progressed now to reviewing vendor details and pricing of their proposals and that is what is not being made public because it would compromise our negotiating strategy with the two finalists, IBM and Northrop Grumman. The scope of work has not changed from the original posting.

This article also doesn't mention the fact we are following the same practices for disclosing information that the Department of General Services used for the Capitol renovation project. And it also doesn't talk about the very large number of people and agencies involved in the PPEA review process. There are 85 individuals (some are on multiple teams) representing 21 agencies who will review both the Infrastructure PPEA proposals and the Enterprise Applications PPEA proposals. They include 3 cabinet secretaries, 2 deputy secretaries, and 7 agency heads.

I firmly believe that we are doing a good job of getting input from a wide range of viewpoints without compromising our bargaining position.

Finally, I remain committed to sharing information with you about PPEA as the process progresses and to answering your questions and concerns. I look forward to giving you more information about the PPEA process and the overall transformation effort at our next Dialogue meeting on August 11.